

SUSAN TATAYON

CHAIR
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



PROFESSIONAL BIO

Susan Tatayon, Chair of the Delta Stewardship Council, was appointed by Governor Brown in 2014 and reappointed in 2018. The council elected Susan to serve as vice-chair in 2016 and as full-time Chair effective January 2019.

In a career spanning more than 35 years in water resources management, she has worked for The Nature Conservancy, a multinational water resources consulting firm, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

During her 12 years with The Nature Conservancy, Ms. Tatayon held several positions including water project director and associate director of its California Water Program. Much of her work for TNC focused on issues related to the Delta, floodplain management, and groundwater. At the consulting firm, she managed projects and staff working on integrated water management plans and such projects as the Lower American River Flow Regime, the 2005 California Water Plan Update, and water storage investigations.

At the Bureau of Reclamation, she served as special assistant to the regional director of the Mid-Pacific Region and worked on implementation of the CALFED Record of Decision, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, water transfers, and renewal of long-term water contracts. At DWR, she served as special assistant to the chief deputy director and later managed DWR's water reuse program. Prior to 1996, she worked in DWR's planning division on special projects related to water transfers, storage investigations, and Mono Lake.

Ms. Tatayon was elected to the Floodplain Management Association board of directors in 2013. From 2011 to 2013, she co-chaired the California Water Plan Update Advisory Committee's Finance Caucus. In 2009, she served on work groups that helped define the scope of the first Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. In 2007, she served as a member of the stakeholder group advising the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force for sustainable management of the Delta.

A pragmatist who enjoys working with people in a down-to-earth way to find practical solutions to problems, throughout her career Ms. Tatayon has done her best to listen carefully to others' perspectives and discover solutions that are workable for most concerned. She has also worked closely with scientists, modelers, and water-project operators, which has prepared her well for understanding on-the-ground implications of proposed policies.